



US Army Corps
of Engineers
GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION

Public Notice

No. CELRD-PM-P-00-1 Date: May 24, 2000

Ohio River Mainstem Systems Study (ORMSS)

Interim Feasibility Report: J.T. Myers and Greenup Locks Improvements



Report Date: April 2000

Review and Authorization Process

Prior to adoption of the proposed project, the study evaluations and report findings will be reviewed by the Chief of Engineers and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. A coordinated review, including the affected states and other Federal agencies, will also be accomplished at this time.

The Chief of Engineers will review the report and forward a recommendation to the Secretary of the Army. If the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers is significantly different from the recommendation coordinated with state and Federal agencies, interested parties will be afforded an opportunity to comment further prior to submission of the Chief's report to the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, then establishes the Administration's position on whether the proposal should be recommended to Congress for authorization.

VIEWS OF INTERESTED PARTIES: Interested parties may present written views on the report to Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works, through the US Army Corps of Engineers Policy Review Branch. Please mail such communication to: Corps of Engineers Policy Review Branch, 20 Massachusetts Ave NW, ATTN: CECW-AR, Washington DC 20314. **Correspondence must reach the above address by 30 June 2000.** Copies of information received by mail will be regarded as public information unless the correspondent requests otherwise. Such a request will limit the usefulness of the information because of the need for full public disclosure of all factors relevant to the decision.

FINAL ACTION BY THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS: The Chief of Engineers will not submit a recommendation to the Secretary on the report until after the expiration of this notice or any extension thereof that may be granted, and full consideration of all information submitted in response thereto.

REPORT INFORMATION: Further information may be obtained from: Veronica Rife, Project Manager; U.S. Army Engineer District, Louisville; P.O. Box 59 ATTN: PM-C; Louisville, KY 40201-0059 (Phone: 502-625-7034). See inside of this notice for coupon to order a report document. Copies of all the report documents will also be on file at the following public review locations:

Alexandrian Public Library 115 West 5th St. Mount Vernon, IN 47620	Reference Services Evansville-Vanderburgh Library 22 Southeast 5th St. Evansville, IN 47708	Greenup County Public Library 614 Main St. Greenup, KY 41144	Reference Dept. Cabell County Public Library 455 Ninth Street Huntington, WV 25701
--	--	--	---

Please provide the information contained in this notice to any person known by you to be interested in the report, and who, not being known to the Division Engineer, does not receive a copy of this public notice.

Robert H. Griffin
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Division Engineer
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

Completion of Interim Study

The Commander of the Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (Cincinnati, Ohio), working in conjunction with the Corps' Commanders in Louisville and Huntington Districts, announces the completion of an interim feasibility study dealing with the need for improvements at J.T. Myers Locks and Dam and at Greenup Locks and Dam. Both of these navigation lock projects are located on the Ohio River. An Interim Feasibility Report (dated April 2000) has been completed with technical support from several Corps' offices -- including the Pittsburgh and Nashville Districts, and the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, MS. The Corps also acknowledges the assistance of various other federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the various states' resources agencies along the Ohio River. The interim report is issued as part of the broader Ohio River Mainstem Systems Study (ORMSS), and is the first recommendation document issued as part of the ORMSS.

This Notice provides a brief summary of the findings of the Interim Report. A draft version of this report was widely distributed in January 2000. The full Interim Report is over 1,300 pages and is printed in 7 volumes, as listed below:

Report Volumes

VolumeCode	Volume Title	Volume Description
MR	Main Report & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Summary of Study Area, Problems and Needs, Plan Formulation, Conclusions, Recommendations, and EIS.
ERD	Environmental Reference Data	Supplementary Environmental Data not specifically required for publication in the EIS.
EC	Economics Appendix	Economics of Without-Project Condition, and Benefits and Costs of Plans
GE	General Engineering Reference Data	Summary of past reports, Hydrologic &Hydraulic data for the Ohio R., ORMSS structural Reliability studies to date
ED-1	Engineering Appendix for J.T. Myers L&D	Designs for improvements at J.T. Myers L&D
ED-2	Engineering Appendix for Greenup L&D	Designs for improvements at Greenup L&D
RE	Real Estate Appendix	Real Estate details for improvements at Myers and Greenup L&Ds and associated environmental mitigation actions.

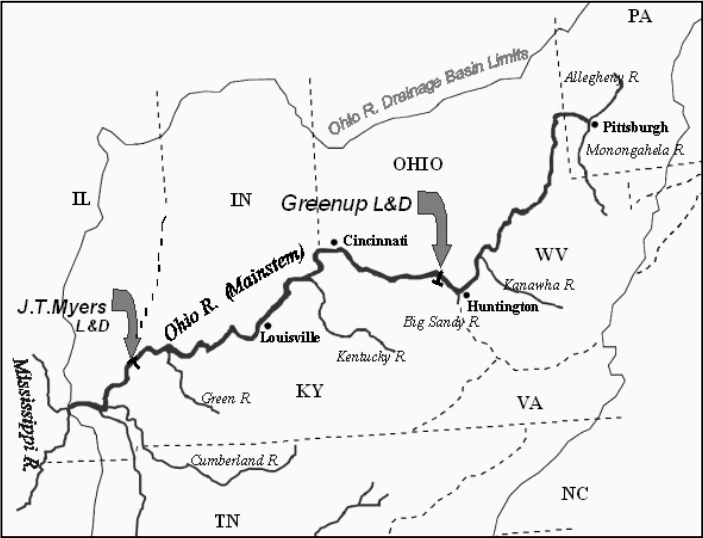
A coupon at the bottom of the next column provides means for ordering copies of the entire report (at \$125.00 per copy), or the entire report is also available on CD-disk, readable on Microsoft® compatible computers (using Adobe® Acrobat software) at only \$5.00 per CD. A single paper-copy of the Main Report and EIS (document MR) is available at no cost, although \$25.00 is charged for additional copies.

Ohio River Navigation

The Ohio River Basin, that area drained by the Ohio River and its tributaries, is home to 25 million people. Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville, and Nashville are the region’s largest cities. Waterborne commerce is made possible in the basin by a series of 60 lock and dam projects spread throughout the Ohio River and its 12 navigable tributaries. In recent years barges throughout the Ohio River Basin have carried approximately 260 million tons of commodities on navigable rivers. These commodities are the products of coal mines, petroleum refineries, stone quarries, cement plants, farms, and the raw material for construction companies, steel mills, electric utilities, paper plants, aluminum manufacturers, and chemical companies.

The mainstem of the Ohio River extends from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio joins the Mississippi River -- providing 981 miles of commercially navigable channel. Year-round navigation is provided by a system of 20 locks and dams and annual maintenance dredging of the channels.

The Interim Report of the Ohio River Mainstem Systems Study concerns itself with the formulation of solutions at the two highest-priority structures needing improvement – namely J.T.Myers L&D and Greenup L&D. The locations of these two projects are spotted on the regional map (at right).



Problems and Needs

The primary problems at Myers and Greenup Locks and Dams involve traffic delays. Myers and Greenup are two of the most heavily used locks on the Ohio River. When the longer 1200’ long chamber at either of these facilities are closed due to maintenance or accidents, all traffic must lock through the smaller, land-side 600’ long chamber. This results in long delays to commercial tows. Reducing these delays can save millions of dollars in transportation costs, and also reduce the impacts of waiting-tows on fish resources in the immediate area of the locks and dams.

Report Conclusions and Recommendations

The J.T. Myers and Greenup Locks Interim Report recommends similar improvements at each of the Myers and Greenup Lock and Dam sites. Improvements recommended include:

- Extending the shorter 600’ locks (the land-side chambers) to 1200’ length. (These are nominal dimensions, i.e. a 1200’-chamber means that a 1200-foot long tow can be accommodated in the chamber.)
- Installation of Miter Gate Quick Changeout Systems (MGQCS). The MGQCS provides for significantly faster repairs to the lock gates in the future at these two sites, whenever gate repairs are required.
- At Greenup only, Major Rehabilitation of the main lock chamber. Pertinent details regarding the justification of this Rehabilitation are contained in this interim report; therefore, it is concluded that this report concurrently satisfies all reporting requirements for Major Rehabilitation as well as for new work requiring Congressional authorization (the lock extension and installation of the Miter Gate Quick Changeout System).

It is recommended that the above-mentioned lock extensions and Miter Gate Quick Changeout Systems be authorized by Congress for implementation as Federal projects together with such modifications as, at the discretion of the Chief of Engineers, may be advisable. For the Myers project site, first cost of construction is estimated at \$181.7 million, and the improvements yield a benefit / cost ratio of 1.8 to 1. For the Greenup project site, first cost of construction is \$175.5 million, and the improvements yield a benefit / cost ratio of 2.5 to 1. If authorized by Congress, all future design and construction costs would be shared 50/50 between the U.S. Government and the Inland Waterway Users’ Trust Fund (this fund is maintained through a waterway diesel fuel tax).

The recommendations contained in the Interim feasibility report reflect the information available at this time and current Departmental policies governing formulation of projects. They do not reflect a program and budgeting priorities inherent in the formulation of a national Civil Works construction program nor the perspective of higher review levels within the Executive Branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before they are transmitted to the Congress as proposals for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the Inland Waterways Users Board, the States, interested Federal agencies, study partners, and other parties will be advised of any modifications and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further.

Coordination

Besides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, participants in this Interim study have included field offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency in Tennessee, Indiana, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania; states' Natural Resources agencies and State Historical Preservation Officers (SHPOs) in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia; various private design, environmental, and engineering consultants; and the Center for Transportation Analysis at the Oak Ridge (TN) National Laboratory.

Public Involvement

A draft "December 1999" version of this Report (including Draft Environmental Impact Statement) was distributed to over 66 addressees in January 2000. Also, over 2500 copies of a *Notice of Availability* [of the Draft Report and EIS] were mailed in January 2000. Following distribution of that Notice, additional copies of the report (either printed, or digital copies of the documents on CDROM-disk) were also provided to the general public (on request).

Public meetings were held in Greenup, KY on February 9, 2000 and at Mt. Vernon, IN on February 14, 2000 to discuss the findings in the draft Interim. The meetings were announced in four ways: (1) through the *Notice of Availability*; (2) through news releases issued by the Louisville and Huntington Districts to news media organizations; (3) by a *Federal Register* Notice, dated January 14, 2000; and (4) by public computer web pages on the Louisville District Internet site.

Various comments and letters were received in response to the Draft report, the meetings, and the Notice of Availability. Oral and written comments received at the two public meetings and in letters received during January-February 2000, and the Corps' responses to these comments, are addressed in this final Interim Report and EIS (dated April 2000). Copies of the letters and the Corps' responses are reproduced in the attached Environmental Impact Statement.

ORDER FORM for PUBLICATIONS and ELECTRONIC MEDIA (CD-ROM)

Please send me the following items:	Item	Price Each	Number Desired	Line-total
	Full Report (all 7 volumes).	\$125.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Send all materials to:	Main Report & EIS (one copy free)	\$ 0.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Name _____	Main Report & EIS (additional copies)	\$ 25.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Address _____	Full Report on a CD-ROM	\$5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
	Total Cost of Items Desired\$ _____			
City,State,Zip _____	Daytime Phone # (optional): () - .			
_____ I have enclosed a personal check or money order, made payable to: “FAO, USAED, Louisville”				

Mail this coupon to: ORMSS Report, ATTN: PM-C; US Army Engineer District, Louisville; PO Box 59; Louisville, KY 40201-0059